

INDIANA STATE SENTINEL:
—THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE STATE—
Office on Illinois Street, North of Washington

By CHAPMANS & SPANN.

The State Sentinel will contain a much larger amount of reading matter, on all subjects of general interest, than any other newspaper in Indiana.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

Guilty or Not Guilty.

There is a good moral in this sketch, which we copy from the *St. Louis Review*, that the fair sex should note. John Brown left some good MS. behind him.

There came a lady and gentleman to the principal hotel in Fairview, who took boarding for six months, but kept themselves entirely secluded from the good people of the village. Some calls were made upon them, but the well-meant efforts of the villagers were all repelled; for the lady declined seeing any company. Even the landlady was given to understand, that she was not at any time needed in the apartments of the strangers, and as they paid well and promptly, she saw no impropriety in the regulation. Mr. and Mrs. Volkenburg, (for that was the name they had on their baggage) took frequent walks to the mineral spring, then up to the forest and to the grave hill, over to the cave, and in every direction, but scrupulously avoided all intercourse with the town folks, much to their annoyance.

When the strangers had been about three months in the village, the gentleman was called away to some distance, and left his wife alone at the hotel. "I shall be absent a month or six weeks," he said to the landlord. "My wife will remain and she only wishes to live as she has before done, entirely secluded."

So the stranger set out upon his journey, and the lady remained at the hotel. Now, of course, people's eyes were open; for wasn't the fame of the village due to each one of them, as each one was part and parcel of the village? To be sure it was; and therefore it got abroad a few days after, that the strange woman at the hotel had actually sent a note through the Post Office to Dr. Jenkins.

That evening, (for it was afternoon when he received the note,) Dr. Jenkins paid a visit to the lady at the hotel—the actually went in to Mrs. Volkenburg's room! Oh, horror!

Active measures were now necessary; this thing couldn't be endured. The next day, a meeting of the elders was called for the next Saturday evening, to take the matter into consideration.

But there was a power more active than the elders; this was the sympathetic sisterhood of the village, who conceived the idea of calling on the Doctor to confess everything.

They thought this would be better than a formal trial; he would tell all of it, and then be reprimanded, suspended, or even expelled, all in a quiet way.

Having convened and sent a letter to the Doctor requesting his attendance, they awaited his coming with all possible patience.

Dr. Jenkins was announced. When he received the note from the ladies, stating that his attendance was desired, as they wished to make an examination, he was entirely at a loss to imagine what it could mean, but he concluded the best way was to go in his professional capacity and see.

"Good evening, ladies," said the doctor, with a profound bow, "I am happy to report myself in answer to your call. It is always pleasant to wait on the ladies."

Mrs. Leslie was the oldest lady in the room; not one of the rest noticed the salutation of the Doctor, but all looked at Mrs. Leslie, to see what she would do, and he governed accordingly. Mrs. Leslie looked with indignation at the freedom of the doctor's entrance, and then all the rest looked indignantly too. Mrs. Leslie drew herself up with dignity.

"Dr. Jenkins," said she, "we have met on delicate business—we wish you to be present, and in one word, sir, we all think you had better confess."

"Confess!" exclaimed the doctor in unfeigned surprise.

"Yes sir—confess! and try to make atonement by humility."

"Upon my word, ladies, I don't understand you," said the doctor.

"Don't understand us!" exclaimed Mrs. Leslie, casting a significant look at the other ladies who therewith all looked significantly at each other—"don't understand us?"

"Outrageous!" they all exclaimed, one after another; "outrageous."

"Yes, Dr. Jenkins," said Mrs. Leslie, "your conduct is outrageous. Didn't you visit that strange woman at the hotel? Do you confess that?"

"Yes, madam," said the doctor with a quiet smile. "I did visit the lady whom I suppose you mean—Mrs. Van Volkenburg."

"Did you ever, ladies, did you ever?" exclaimed, and partly asked Mrs. Leslie.

"Never did, in all our lives," said two or three at once.

"And there, Dr. Jenkins," said Mrs. Leslie, resuming the investigation, "will you tell us what took place?"

"I have no objection, madam," said the doctor, "I went to her room, and while there I embraced—" "That'll do, Dr. Jenkins," broke in Mrs. Leslie, "that'll do. You may leave the room. Sir, blush for what you have done."

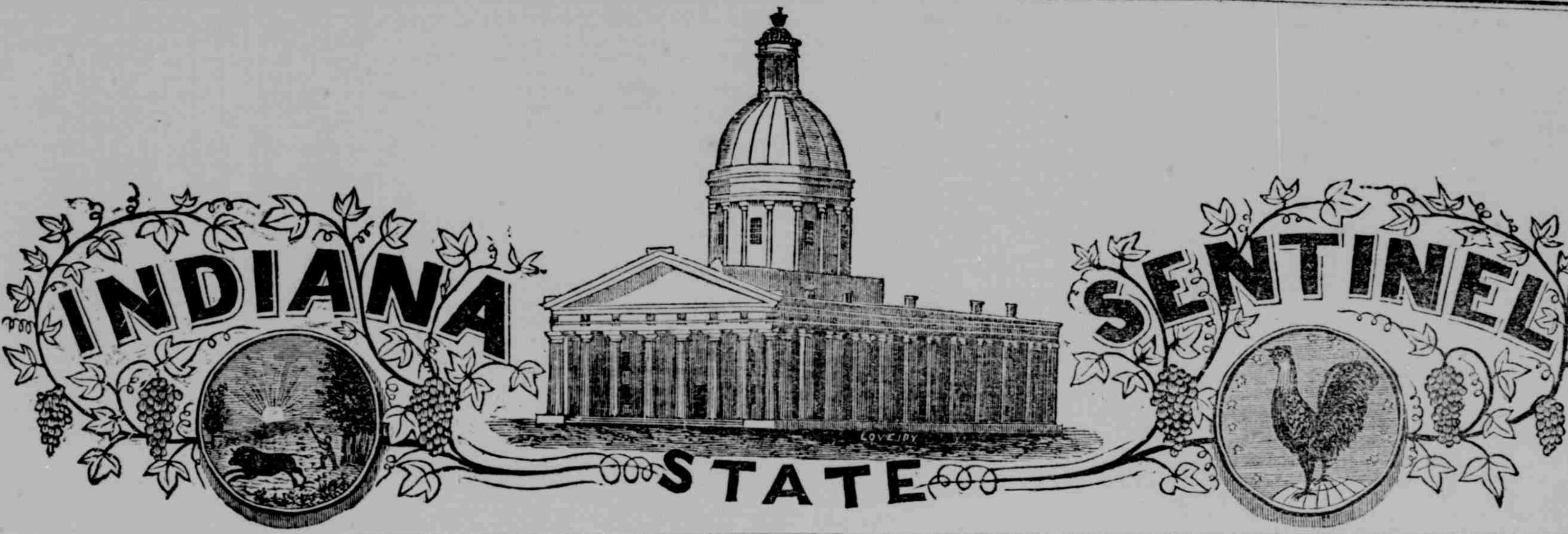
"Permit me, madam to explain—"

"No sir. No explanations. We know what your plan would be. No, sir. We've heard enough, sir!"

"Well," said the doctor, "if you will not hear me any further, I must bid you good evening, ladies."

He bowed himself out of the room, as politely as he had bowed himself into it.

The next Saturday afternoon, the doctor



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attended to a summons from the elders. The examination was short. Taking up the enquiry where the ladies had left it, the chairman inquired of the doctor, "if he had actually embraced at the hotel, and if so, who?"

"I embraced no person, sir."

"Didn't you confess as much to Mrs. Leslie and the other ladies?"

"No, brother Slim, I was about to say to them, that when in the lady's room, I—"

"What, sir?"

"I embraced the opportunity to draw a tooth for her." And he pulled it out of his pocket.

The doctor was acquitted, but this did not prevent the appointment of a committee of ladies to call and examine Mrs. Van Volkenburg's jaw!

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